

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 027406  
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00  
SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 NEA-10  
/049 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/PP:LFUERTH:MH  
APPROVED BY EUR - GSVEST  
H - NLEDSKY (DRAFT)

-----126377 020042Z /61

O 020023Z FEB 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, XG

SUBJECT: VEST TESTIMONY BEFORE HAMILTON SUBCOMMITTEE

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST TESTIFIED JANUARY 31 BEFORE AN OPEN SESSION OF THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST, CHAIRED BY REPRESENTATIVE HAMILTON. THE SUBCOMMITTEE RECEIVED AND ENTERED INTO THE RECORD AN OVERVIEW STATEMENT FROM MR. VEST COVERING DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS, AND REVIEWING BASIC POLICY INTERESTS. TEXT OF THE STATEMENT WILL BE PROVIDED TO POSTS SEPARATELY. WE WILL ALSO MAKE AVAILABLE THE VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT AS SOON AS WE RECEIVE IT FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE. A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF WRITTEN FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS ARE EXPECTED, AND WHEN THESE HAVE BEEN ANSWERED, WE WILL COMPLETE THE RECORD FOR POSTS' INFORMATION. MEANWHILE, THIS MESSAGE REPORTS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT FEATURES OF THE DISCUSSION, WHICH WERE CLEARLY GREECE-  
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PAGE 02 STATE 027406

TURKEY-CYPRUS AND EUROCOMMUNISM.

2. QUESTIONING ON GREECE, TURKEY AND CYPRUS WAS DETAILED AND POINTED. SEVERAL CONGRESSMEN PRESSED MR. VEST TO EXPLAIN WHEN AND UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD MOVE TO ENACT THE TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION

AGREEMENT (DCA). CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ (D-NY) ASSERTED THAT A MAJORITY OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE, AND PROBABLY THE FULL HOUSE WOULD VOTE FOR THE TURKISH DCA, AND ENQUIRED HOW THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD REACT IF CONGRESS SIMPLY MOVED ON ITS OWN TO ADOPT NECESSARY DCA IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION. MR. VEST DECLINED TO SPECULATE ABOUT CONDITIONS OR TIMING. HE TOLD THE SUBCOMMITTEE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD CONSULT WITH THE CONGRESS WHEN IT HAD REACHED A JUDGEMENT THAT THE APPROPRIATE MOMENT HAD COME FOR MOVING TO ENACT THE TURKISH DCA, AND THAT MEANWHILE, THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD WELCOME THE VIEWS OF MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS ON THIS MATTER. REPRESENTATIVE ROSENTHAL (D-NY) ARRIVED LATE, AND HAD NO QUESTIONS.

3. THERE WAS CLOSE QUESTIONING ABOUT THE MEANING OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC STATEMENT OF JANUARY 12TH REGARDING THE SITUATION IN ITALY, AND THERE WAS AN EFFORT TO SEEK A PRECISE FORMULATION FROM MR. VEST AS TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S ULTIMATE PURPOSES IN BOTH ITALY AND FRANCE. WERE WE PUSHING THE ITALIAN DC TO CALL FOR NEW ELECTIONS? WAS THE US ENDORSING PRESIDENT GISCARD? WHY DID THE PRESIDENT MEET WITH MITTERAND AND NOT CHIRAC, ETC. MR. VEST REPLIED THAT THE JANUARY 12TH STATEMENT WAS A RECAPITULATION OF THE EXISTING "HANDS-OFF" POLICY, RATHER THAN A DEPARTURE, AND THAT ITS PURPOSE WAS TO ENSURE THAT EVIDENT MISINTERPRETATIONS -- E.G. THAT THE US IS INDIF-  
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PAGE 03 STATE 027406

FERENT TO THE OUTCOME OF EVENTS IN ITALY -- WOULD BE SET RIGHT. HE POINTED OUT TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE THAT CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE JANUARY 12TH STATEMENT, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR GARDNER'S RETURN TO WASHINGTON FOR DISCUSSIONS, TENDED TO UNDERSCORE THE EVENT BUT SHOULD NOT BE MISREAD AS A SUBSTANTIVE POLICY SHIFT. VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 027406  
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY:EUR/PP:LFUERTH

APPROVED BY:EUR:JWSHINN

-----028785 031522Z /53

R 031135Z FEB 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USNMR SHAPE

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FOR POLAD OFFICER

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 027406 SENT ACTION ALL EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC  
POSTS FEB 02.

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, XG, XF, (VEST, GEORGE S)  
**To:** EUR POSTS  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014